

# The District 3 Slate

October 2002

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor  
**Pam Slater**

**O**ctober is here and soon anxious trick-and-treaters will be at our doors. I love their enthusiasm as they run from house to house, sacks flying in the autumn breeze. You can see the innocence in their faces as they giggle their pleas for candy.

How often do we, in our adult world, long to once again touch that innocence. To forget the worries of the day and run with the wind.

Alas, we know better. In our adult world, there are bills to pay, responsibilities to be met, obligations needing attending. As adults, we expect honesty and courtesy.

The long-overdue passage of the state's \$88.9 billion budget is a perverse Halloween trick.

Sacramento says the spending plan will be impact or affect local governments, but they distort the facts to justify their conclusions. In fact, San Diego County is being forced to make up a shortfall of more than \$50 million! This game of hiding the pea in the pod does not but hurt good people who try to play by the rules established by Sacramento. We expect leaders, not game players.

*Pam Slater*

## State's Budgetary Trickery Forces Hard Decisions For Prudent County

**A** \$99 billion state budget that has been called an "arduous and difficult task" with dramatic spending cuts passes onto local municipalities many burdens that traditionally are the responsibility of the state. In effect, this budget is sleight of hand – when one finally realizes how deep the impacts go it is too late to complain to those who fostered this fiscal disaster upon us.

Here are the real numbers: San Diego County receives 37 percent of its \$3.86 billion budget from the state for reimbursable mandates, particularly health and human services and public safety. Two out of every three dollars in the county budget are already dedicated to specific purposes as required by law.

County analysts say the state's budget reduces funding to San Diego by between \$19.8 million and \$28 million. But this number pales when one looks closely at the state budget. Funding reductions for health and human services account for another \$15.9 million to \$24.2 million. The reality is San Diego expects to be shorted more than \$50 million!

These costs and their impacts include:

- \$4.6 million cut from Child Welfare Services, forcing dangerous delays in investigations of reports of abuse and neglect, delays in reuniting families, and further backlogs in Juvenile Court cases.

Worse, the federal government could fine the county for these delays, resulting in even higher administrative costs and program delays.

- Upwards of \$5 million in reductions to the Medi-Cal County Administration, forcing longer wait times and delays in receiving benefits.

This has a spill-over effect: Increased visits to hospital emergency rooms that are not truly necessary but place additional stress on a fragile system.

- \$5 million cut statewide for trauma centers affects overburdened facilities in this county.

The state is trying to force San Diego County to continue these services without reimbursement. This is wrong from a budgetary stance.

But the gloom only grows darker. Public safety is also affected. Suspension of reimbursements for state-mandated services results in a "temporary" loss of \$950,000 for the District Attorney's Office. This crimps the Child Abduction and Recovery Program.

Then take another \$25,263 from the Spousal Abuse Program. Domestic violence investigations are impacted.

This state budget hurts most the people who are most vulnerable. It was designed specifically to force counties and cities to patch their safety nets with their own funds while Sacramento continues its wasteful ways.



### The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater

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# County Closes Escrow On Derbas Property; Preserve Gains 92 Acres, With 300+ Pending

A pivotal site bordering the Del Dios Highway will be turned into protected open space after the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Third District Supervisor Pam Slater's motion to purchase the long-sought Derbas acreage. Escrow on the site closed in the first week of October, forever guaranteeing the picturesque site will remain in its natural environment.

The Derbas property is 437 acres of undeveloped land off Del Dios Highway where the roadway intersects Date Lane in southwest Escondido. The board's approval means the County of San Diego will acquire 92 acres for \$1.2 million with the rest of the land secured through a combination of funding sources through the Escondido Creek Conservancy and San Diego County Water Authority.

"Today is a day of celebration," proclaimed a jubilant Supervisor Slater following the board vote. "I want to commend the Derbas family for working with the county and local agencies to protect, forever, their important link in North County's fragile watershed. When private enterprise works with local municipalities in a cooperative manner, great things can happen. Future generations will appreciate what we accomplished here."

Supervisor Slater pointed out the Derbas purchase maintains the region's character and preserves a better quality-of-life for residents and commuters. Ensuring the 437 acres remain open space reduces future demand on the Del Dios Highway. Further, it protects the downstream envi-



Supervisor Pam Slater (left) and Escondido Creek Conservancy President Leonard Wittwer chat with Adnan Derbas (center).

ronment, including wetlands along Escondido Creek and the San Elijo Lagoon.

"This agreement is landmark in that it demonstrates how local governments, regulatory agencies and non-profit organizations should work together collectively to protect and enhance an ecosystem," explained Supervisor Slater.

"We all know how scarce funding is for such projects. This team effort saves

taxpayer dollars; allows nature the opportunity to filter surface water flowing to our lagoons and the sea, keeping our environment in balance; and gives new opportunities for businesses to capitalize on the tourism aspects of this beautiful area.

"This is truly a great day for those who appreciate and want to protect the tranquility of this hidden jewel of North County."



## October Is Your Month To Adopt A Loving Canine

Here's something to bark at - October is "Adopt a Shelter Dog" with the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA! Find your future Fido between noon and 4 p.m. Fridays at Fashion Valley Mall. Or visit the shelter on Gaines Street.

Whether you already have a dog or are in the market for a wet-nosed friend, the October Dog-

gie Café is for you! Enjoy fall fun and meet some new adoptable dog friends over a warm cup of coffee in the company of other dog lovers at this special café, which runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at Borders Books and Music in Mission Valley. Again, pre-registration is required. Call (619) 299-7012, ext. 249.





## NEVER CAN BE TOO CLEAN!!!

*Supervisor Pam Slater (center) and City of Encinitas council members Dennis Holz, Jerome Stocks, Maggie Hollihan and Christy Guerin are joined by Assemblyman Howard Wayne, project coordinators and advocates to mark the debut of the new filtration system for Moonlight Creek. The state-of-the-art technology prevents pollutants and bacteria from entering the ocean, preserving the aquatic environment.*

# Slater To Merchant Symposium: Let's Make Hwy 101 As Famous As Route 66

Being "branded" is good, especially if the designation helps bring tourists to North County, Supervisor Pam Slater told attendees at the first "Historic Highway 101 Roads Conference." The supervisor was the keynote speaker for the three-day conference on how to better attract tourists to the stretch of roadway made famous in numerous songs and movies.

"With more people taking shorter trips closer to home, rediscovering the heritage and history of local areas instead of venturing off to exotic lands, there is no better time to promote the wonders of our Highway 101," said Supervisor Slater.

"As you may know, Highway 101 actually runs 815 miles. In many ways, it is as famous — if not more famous —

than the classic Route 66. Pop icons of the 1960s, from Gidget to the Beach Boys, launched the image of the small Southern California beach town as a surfing mecca. Together, these small coastal towns offer unique experiences from their stores, restaurants and attractions. Many other treasures, up and down the coast, are just waiting to be discovered."

In San Diego County, Highway 101 runs through the coastal cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar, the last three in the supervisor's Third District. The coastal cities, their chambers of commerce, and the Downtown Encinitas MainStreet Association are working together to promote their various entities.

"This collaborative effort will help

merchants and restaurateurs better market their establishments," explained Supervisor Slater, who added she has awarded \$65,000 in community projects funding to help identify and "brand" the Highway 101 corridor. "This effort is a win-win situation for all involved. After all, in our ways, we are all tourists."

"Let's continue to work together to open our hearts and our charm. In return, they will open their wallets, helping small businesses prosper, creating more jobs, preserving the historical significance of the highway, and further improving the tax base, which allows cities and counties the opportunity to provide even more services, such as more parks, better beaches and an improved quality-of-life for all our residents."

## Wanted: People To Serve

Are you the type of person who likes to serve for the public good? Then the Third District needs you! The following panels or posts have openings:

- Air Pollution Control District (medical professional).
- County hearing officer (Calif. attorney for five years).
- Emergency Medical Care Committee (General Public)
- Mental Health (direct client consumer).
- Social Services.
- Mobile Home Issues (applicant must reside in a mobile home in an unincorporated area of the Third District.)

Interested? Contact Todd Voorhees at (619) 531-5533 for an application or more information.



## SWEET MUSIC

Supervisor Pam Slater presents a \$200,000 check to the La Jolla Playhouse for its 2002 season. The funds are from the Third District community projects budget.